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SPECIAL COUNSEL INVESTIGATION

FLYNN PLEADS, TO COOPERATE

Former Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn, center, arrives at federal court to plead guilty to lying to the FBI and agree to cooperate with Robert Mueller's investigation. *Susan Walsh, Associated Press*

Former national security adviser admits lying to FBI about meeting with Russians

Michael Flynn, the retired general who served as Donald Trump's first national security adviser, pleaded guilty Friday to lying to the FBI about reaching out to the Russians on Trump's behalf and, perhaps more significantly, said members of the president's inner circle were intimately involved with — and at times directing — his contacts.

What it means: Flynn becomes a key cooperator and likely witness in the federal investigation into whether Russia and associates of the president collaborated to influence the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

Who it implicates: Court papers make clear Flynn knows the identities of members of Trump's transition team who were fully aware of his outreach to Russian officials and multiple sources say Flynn consulted with Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner.

A former official's take: "For a prosecutor to give someone this big a break ... then he's got something important to say."— Michael Zeldin, a former senior U.S. Justice Department official.

Inside: More about the investigation and plea on **A7**

Charges so far

Michael Flynn: President Donald Trump's former national security adviser has pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about contact with Russian ambassador Sergey Kislyak; Flynn is cooperating with the ongoing investigation.

Paul Manafort: The former campaign chairman is facing multiple charges in the special counsel investigation.

Rick Gates: The Manafort business associate is also facing multiple charges.

George Papadopoulous: The former campaign foreign policy adviser pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI.

TAX OVERHAUL

GOP pushes ahead on Senate plan

Senate Republicans, after a flurry of last-minute deals, said they had enough votes to salvage their tax plan Friday as voting carried over late into the night, putting Congress on track to deliver President Donald Trump's most significant first-year accomplishment.

The vote: A total of 51 Republicans eventually came around ahead of the vote to say they supported the legislation, which was still being written — literally — after they had voiced their approval. Susan Collins of Maine negotiated directly with Trump at times to get the reinstatement of the property tax deduction included before she'd vote for the proposal. Bob Corker of Tennessee broke ranks to oppose it.

What it does: Through corporate tax rate cuts and an increase in the standard deduction, among many other items, it cuts taxes by $1.5 trillion, adding $1 trillion to the deficit over 10 years. It also repeals the Affordable Care Act requirement that Americans have health insurance.

What happens next: The Senate and House versions must be reconciled in a conference committee, which will begin meeting next week.

Inside: More about the tax plan **A6**

COMMENTARY

This discovery has a familiar ring to it

Samantha Swindler

Earlier this fall, a contractor tearing out an old park sidewalk in Aloha spotted a glint of gold in the rubble. It was a man's wedding band.

This week, 46 years after it flew off during a game of touch football, the ring ended up back where it belonged — on the hand of the onetime love-struck teenage boy who fell hard for a girl he met on a church outing.

How the ring found its way home was a combination of accident, detective work and plain old luck.

Some might call it fate.

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On Oct. 11, Tim Lacey with Lacey Construction was pulling up about 35 feet of sidewalk at Aloha's Hazeldale Park for repairs when he bent over to clear some of the loose dirt at the edge of the excavation site.

"I just caught it out of the corner of my eye," he said. A gold wedding band below the asphalt.

He turned it over to Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District, thinking perhaps it had been lost by one of the workers who built the park originally in 1982.

"It was kind of dirty, as you can imagine being underneath

SEE SWINDLER, A5

Dean Anderson turns his wedding band at his Gresham home. The ring had been lost in 1971 and was found last month during an excavation project at Aloha's Hazeldale Park. *Teresa Mahoney, staff*

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